



BUILDING CONTROL

Carbon Monoxide Detection in the home

Building Regulations

As from 31st October 2012, it is a requirement of the building regulations that where a combustion appliance is installed in a dwelling, reasonable provision must be made to detect the presence of **carbon monoxide** and give early warning to the occupants.

What this means to YOU

In order to comply with the above, guidance advises that where a new or replacement combustion appliance is installed in a dwelling, a carbon monoxide detector/alarm must be provided in the room where the appliance is located. (In some instances – where the appliance is located in a room or area not usually occupied - the detector should be fitted in the next occupiable room/area).

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colourless and odourless gas, making its presence difficult to detect. It is formed when domestic fuels such as gas, coal, wood or oil are burned ineffectively due to the lack of oxygen. This can be due to the ineffective supply of ventilation so that when fuel burns in an enclosed room, the oxygen in the room is gradually used up and replaced with carbon dioxide. As carbon dioxide builds up in the air, the fuel is prevented from burning fully and thus starts releasing carbon monoxide instead. Alternatively it can be due to lack of maintenance of the appliance, leading to improper combustion and thus the emission of carbon monoxide.

Prevention of Carbon Monoxide poisoning

Prevention is always better than cure and even though a detection/alarm system can save lives, it's effectiveness depends on the system being installed properly, tested regularly and changed at the recommended intervals. So in addition to fitting a detector/alarm there are more proactive measures that can be taken:

- Employ a qualified, reputable and registered engineer to install the fuel-burning appliance
- Make sure that all rooms are well ventilated when an appliance is being used
- Have fuel-burning appliances checked/maintained regularly by a qualified engineer (annual)
- Make sure chimneys and flues are cleaned regularly and not blocked
- Fit a carbon monoxide detector/alarm that meets British or European Standards and is CE marked

Without a detector there may be no warning of the presence of carbon monoxide and the early symptoms of drowsiness may only lead to you falling asleep, from which you may not awake.

Ensure your and your family's safety

FIT A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR/ALARM TODAY

For further information, please contact your local Councils Building Control Service.